REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 5-10, 15-20, and 26-32.

Claims 1-4, 11-14, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyasaka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,678), hereinafter "Miyasaka." This rejection is respectfully traversed. As the Examiner will appreciate, Miyasaka and the present invention are owned by common assignee Seiko Epson Corporation. The real-time command, receive interrupt process disclosed in Miyasaka was discussed in the background section of the present application (e.g. page 2, starting at line 3). As further described in the specification of the present application, "a problem is that a data stream identical to a real-time command can circumstantially occur in the data stream of an image data sequence. This can result in a process corresponding to an actual real-time command being performed in the receive interrupt process described above even though the received data stream should not be interpreted as a real-time command" (page 3, lines 22-26). This problem is not recognized in Miyasaka, and the solution of the present invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by Miyasaka

The Examiner states that Miyasaka discloses computer 61 that "acts as the printer controller." The Examiner then states that the printer controller (i.e. computer 61) comprises an "evaluating unit" and refers to the description of the real-time command interpreting means 64 of Miyasaka. However, as the Examiner will appreciate, the real-time command interpreting means 64 is part of the printing apparatus, not the host computer (printer controller) 61 (see Miyasaka Fig. 5, for example). So, the "printer controller" of Miyasaka does not comprise the "evaluating unit" of Miyasaka, as specifically recited in independent claim 1. This is an important distinction because the Examiner is referring to processes performed on data that has already been received in the printer. When the Examiner identifies the "sending unit" of Miyasaka, he again refers to the description of the real-time command interpreting means 64 of
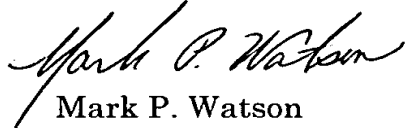
Miyasaka. Independent Claims 1, 11, and 21 recite a sending unit (or step) that sends one of the send data stream and the plurality of data stream segments to the printer based on the detection result. How can the "sending unit" of Miyasaka send data to the printer when it is already part of the printer? Since the last action performed in each of independent Claims 1, 11, and 21, is sending one of the send data stream and the plurality of data stream segments to the printer, and this last action is predicated on detecting the specific data sequence and dividing the send data stream, then all of the actions specifically set forth in independent Claims 1, 11, and 21 must happen before the data is sent to the printer. In distinct contrast, the actions of Miyasaka referred by the Examiner all happen after the data is received by the printer. This is an important distinction because, in Miyasaka, once the data stream is received, it is evaluated through a receive interrupt process that detects real-time commands in the data stream and immediately executes such commands. If a real-time command happens to occur in the data stream of an image data sequence then that real-time command will be inadvertently executed. The present invention avoids such circumstance by dividing up the send data stream into a plurality of data stream segments not containing the real-time command before it is sent to the printer.

It is further important to note that Miyasaka fails to disclose or suggest dividing the send data stream into a plurality of data stream segments not containing the specific data sequence, the plurality of data stream segments functioning the same as the send data stream. The fact that Miyasaka receives data in one-byte units, as suggested by the Examiner, clearly does not meet this specifically recited feature of dividing the send data stream into a plurality of data stream segments not containing the specific data sequence. It must be noted that the specific data sequence refers back to that which was detected. So, the sequence must be detected first and then the data stream is divided into a plurality of data stream segments not containing the specific data sequence. Thus, it is clear that Miyasaka fails to show or suggest the features of the present invention specifically recited in each of independent Claims 1, 11, and

21. The dependent claims recite yet additional novel features and are patentable for at least the same reasons as set forth above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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